

FOREST SITE PREPARATION

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 490



FOREST SITE PREPARATION

Forest site preparation is the practice of treating areas to encourage natural regeneration of desirable trees and shrubs or to accelerate the process by providing optimum site conditions for planting or direct seeding of desirable woody species.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies to understocked areas, areas planned for tree planting following harvest, areas where a land cover change to forest is desired, or areas having undesirable vegetation that inhibits or competes with preferred woody species.

The purpose of the practice is to prepare the land for establishing a stand of desirable woody vegetation by controlling undesirable vegetation, removing slash and debris, or altering site conditions.

Application of this practice requires the following considerations:

1. Protect existing desirable vegetation
2. Remaining slash and debris should not harbor harmful levels of pests, hinder needed equipment operation, or create undue fire hazard.
3. Accelerated erosion and/or runoff caused by site preparation will be controlled by other conservation practices.
4. The chosen method should be cost effective, and protect culture resources, springs, seeps, wetlands, and other unique areas.
5. Impacts on wildlife habitat should be carefully evaluated as part of the planning process.

Additional information including specifications for this practice are filed in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

The following pages contain the conservation effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

CONSERVATION PRACTICE PHYSICAL EFFECT WORKSHEET

NOTE: recorded in Microsoft word 6.0 - use tabs to change cells/fields

STATE	Iowa	FIELD OFFICE		DATE	12/5/96
PRACTICE: 490 Forest Site Preparation			NOTES: This practice has many short term effects associated with soil disturbance and reduced soil cover.		
RESOURCE: SOIL RESOURCE CONCERN: EROSION			Help Message: Click on form field for choice lists. Tab key to move around. "N/A" is the default.		
RESOURCE INDICATORS			PHYSICAL EFFECTS		
SHEET AND RILL			N/A		
WIND			N/A		
EPHEMERAL GULLY			N/A		
CLASSIC GULLY			N/A		
STREAMBANK			N/A		
IRRIGATION INDUCED			N/A		
SOIL MASS MOVEMENT			N/A		
ROADBANK/CONSTRUCTION			N/A		
OTHER					
RESOURCE CONCERN: SOIL CONDITION					
SOIL TILTH			N/A		
SOIL COMPACTION			N/A		
SOIL CONTAMINATION					
• SALTS			N/A		
• ORGANICS			N/A		
• FERTILIZERS			N/A		
• PESTICIDES			N/A		
• OTHER					
DEPOSITION/DAMAGE					
• ONSITE			N/A		
• OFFSITE			N/A		
DEPOSITION/SAFETY					
• ONSITE			N/A		
• OFFSITE			N/A		
OTHER					
RESOURCE: WATER RESOURCE CONCERN: WATER QUANTITY					
SEEPS			N/A		
RUNOFF/FLOODING			N/A		
EXCESS SUBSURFACE WATER			N/A		
INADEQUATE OUTLETS			N/A		
WATER MGT. IRRIGATION					
• SURFACE			N/A		
• SPRINKLER			N/A		
WATER MGT. NON-IRRIGATED			N/A		
RESTRICTED FLOW CAPACITY (H2O convey.)					
• ONSITE			N/A		
• OFFSITE			N/A		
RESTRICTED STORAGE			N/A		
OTHER					

RESOURCE: WATER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: WATER QUALITY	
RESOURCE INDICATORS	PHYSICAL EFFECTS
GROUNDWATER CONTAMINANTS	
• PESTICIDES	N/A
• NUTRIENTS AND ORGANICS	N/A
• SALINITY	N/A
• HEAVY METALS	N/A
• PATHOGENS	N/A
• OTHER	
SURFACE WATER CONTAMINANTS	
• PESTICIDES	N/A
• NUTRIENTS AND ORGANICS	N/A
• SUSPENDED SEDIMENTS	N/A
• LOW DISSOLVED OXYGEN	N/A
• SALINITY	N/A
• HEAVY METALS	N/A
• WATER TEMPERATURE	N/A
• PATHOGENS	N/A
AQUATIC HABITAT SUITABILITY	N/A
OTHER	
RESOURCE: AIR	
RESOURCE CONCERN: AIR QUALITY	
AIRBORNE SEDIMENT AND SMOKE PARTICLES	
• ONSITE SAFETY	N/A
• OFFSITE SAFETY	N/A
• ONSITE STRUCT. PROBLEMS	N/A
• OFFSITE STRUCT. PROBLEMS	N/A
• ONSITE HEALTH	N/A
• OFFSITE HEALTH	N/A
AIRBORNE SEDIMENT CAUSING CONVEYANCE PROBLEMS	N/A
AIRBORNE CHEMICAL DRIFT	N/A
AIRBORNE ODORS	N/A
FUNGI, MOLDS, AND POLLEN	N/A
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: AIR CONDITION	
AIR TEMPERATURE	N/A
AIR MOVEMENT (windbreak effect)	N/A
HUMIDITY	N/A
OTHER	

[illegible]

RESOURCE: HUMAN	
RESOURCE CONCERN: SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
RESOURCE INDICATORS	PHYSICAL EFFECTS
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY	insignificant
PRIVATE/PUBLIC VALUES	situational regarding private/public values
CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS	situational regarding client characteristics
RISK TOLERANCE	situational regarding risk
TENURE	situational regarding tenure
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS	
ABSENCE/PRESENCE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES	situational regarding cultural resources
SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES	situational regarding cultural resources
MITIGATION OF NEGATIVE CULTURAL RES. IMPACTS	situational regarding cultural resources
OTHER	